and programmes unsuitable for children must not be carried in the cable service at times when the largest numbers of children are viewing. The Government also issued an advisory to all the satellite television channels and Doordarshan to strictly adhere to the above provisions of the Code.

FM Channels operating in Bihar

†1425. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of FM Channels being operated in Bihar;

(b) the total area covered by them,

(c) whether Government will start some more FM Channels in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Presently, three 6 kW FM transmitters are functioning at Patrra, Sasaram and Purnea with an area coverage of 24.9%. Moreover, under Phase-ll of the private FM broadcasting policy, there has been one successful bidder each in the two districts of Muzaffarpur and Patna for operation of private FM channels.

(c) and (d) Five new 10 kW FM transmitters are proposed during the Tenth Plan at Banka, Gaya, Madhubani, Motihari and Patna. However, implementation of the above schemes is subject to approval, funds availability and sanction of the required staff for operation and maintenance purposes.

Charges by cable operators

1426. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to fix uniform rate that has to be charged from the customers by cable operators in the Metros, District Head Quarters and Rural areas and also to fix the entertainment tax to be charged on cable operators and also to decide on the competent authority for the collection of Entertainment Tax;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government would assure of taking early-favourable action in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) After 9.1.2004, the charges payable by cable subscribers to cable operators, and, in turn, by cable operators to multi system operators/broadcasters are being regulated by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and not by the Central Government. TRAI has frozen the different rates that were prevalent in different parts of India, as on 26.12.2003 and has only allowed periodic escalations based upon a number of factors including inflation. Cable operators are required to comply with the Tariff Orders issued by TRAI, from time to time, which are available on its website (www.trai.gov.in). Entertainment tax is a state subject and Central Government has no role to play in this regard. However, while commenting upon the recommendations of TRAI dated 1.10.2004, Government of Andhra Pradesh has stated that Government of India should recommend to all State Governments to consider Cable TV & DTH services at par and impose the same Entertainment & Sales Tax on these services.

Guidelines on print media

1427. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have changed the guidelines on print media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the guidelines have been issued due to entry of facsimile editions of foreign newspapers and periodicals into the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (b) Pursuant to the Cabinet Decision of June 2005, the Government has allowed publication of facsimile editions of foreign newspapers, in whole or in parts, in India subject to conditions. Further, the investor category in the news and current affairs segment of the print media has been enlarged to include foreign direct investment by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs)